

APPENDIX A – REGISTERED VOTER SURVEY, COVER LETTER AND ADDITIONAL COMMENTS FROM RESPONDENTS

Registered Voter Questionnaire

State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan Public Survey

1. Please check the one which best describes your household. For us, outdoor recreation is

☐ Very important ☐ Moderately important ☐ Slightly important ☐ Unimportant

2. Please check each outdoor activity in which you or another member of your household participated during the past 12 months.

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Drive for pleasure | <input type="checkbox"/> Hunt | <input type="checkbox"/> Swim in outdoor pool |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Walk outdoors | <input type="checkbox"/> Fish | <input type="checkbox"/> Swim in lake, river or pond |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Horseback ride | <input type="checkbox"/> Trap | <input type="checkbox"/> Scuba dive |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bicycle on road/sidewalk | <input type="checkbox"/> Canoe/kayak | <input type="checkbox"/> Photograph nature or scenery |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day hike | <input type="checkbox"/> Motorized boating | <input type="checkbox"/> Rock climb |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Overnight backpack | <input type="checkbox"/> Water ski | <input type="checkbox"/> Geocache |
| <input type="checkbox"/> In-line skate | <input type="checkbox"/> Golf | <input type="checkbox"/> Play outdoor games/sports |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Run/jog outdoors | <input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife viewing | <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer for outdoor games/sport |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cross-country ski | <input type="checkbox"/> Sightseeing | <input type="checkbox"/> Camp |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Snowmobile | <input type="checkbox"/> Picnic | <input type="checkbox"/> Downhill ski/snowboard |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ride an off-road vehicle | <input type="checkbox"/> Relax outdoors | <input type="checkbox"/> Visit outdoor historic site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor ice skating | <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer for habitat, trails, parks, etc. | |

1. Of those checked in Question 2 above, which activity is most important, 2nd most important and 3rd most important to your household?

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2.

1 st	2 nd	3 rd
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4. During the past 12 months, please check each of the licenses, permits, fees or registrations for outdoor recreation which you or another in your household purchased.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> MI fishing (any type) | <input type="checkbox"/> MI junior hunt (any type) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> MI snowmobile registration | <input type="checkbox"/> MI hunt (any type) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> MI ORV license | <input type="checkbox"/> MI apprentice hunt (any type) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> MI snowmobile trail permit | <input type="checkbox"/> MI State Park motor vehicle (annual or daily) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> MI watercraft registration | <input type="checkbox"/> MI boat access site motor veh. (annual or daily) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> MI State Park nightly camp fee | <input type="checkbox"/> MI State Forest campground nightly camp fee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Motor vehicle permit/entry fee to local park (e.g. city, township, regional, county) | |

5. In total, approximately how much did your household spend on these licenses, permits, fees and registrations during the past 12 months? \$_____

6. Please check all the following types of recreation property your household owns?

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Motorized boat | <input type="checkbox"/> Off-road vehicle | <input type="checkbox"/> Fishing equipment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Firearm | <input type="checkbox"/> Canoe/kayak | <input type="checkbox"/> Archery equipment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sail boat | <input type="checkbox"/> Motor home | <input type="checkbox"/> Travel trailer/5th Motor home |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Second home | <input type="checkbox"/> Snowmobile | <input type="checkbox"/> Tent or Popup camper |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Horse | <input type="checkbox"/> Scuba equipment | <input type="checkbox"/> Downhill skis |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bicycle | <input type="checkbox"/> Cross-country skis | <input type="checkbox"/> Hunting equip. besides gun/bow |

7. During the past 12 months, please check each of the following you and/or another member of your household visited in Michigan for outdoor activity and list the most important site visited to your household (e.g. most important state park to you).

Michigan Outdoor Recreation Place	Check if one or more visits in last 12 months	Number of days visited in last 12 months	Name of Most Important Park, Forest, Campground, Site or Trail of this type to your household	Nearest City/Town to this Most Important Site
Michigan State Park/Recreation Areas				
Michigan State Forests				
Michigan State Game/Wildlife Areas				
Michigan Public Boating Access Sites or Harbors				
City, township or village park				
County park				
Huron-Clinton Metroparks				
National Park/Lakeshores				
National Wildlife Refuges				
National Forests				

8. Do you have access to private lands, owned by your household or another with their permission, where you can enjoy outdoor recreation without a fee? ☐ Yes ☐ No

9. Please rate your household's satisfaction with the amount of Michigan public outdoor recreation opportunity on a scale of 1 – 9 where 1 is highly dissatisfied to 9 highly satisfied.

Rating #_____

10. What one action could the State of Michigan take to improve the amount of public outdoor recreation opportunity in Michigan?

11 Please rate your household's satisfaction with the quality of public outdoor recreation opportunity in Michigan on a scale of 1 – 9 where a 1 is highly dissatisfied to a 9 which is highly satisfied. Rating # _____

12. What one action could the State of Michigan take to improve the quality of public outdoor recreation opportunity in Michigan?

13. What one action could the State of Michigan take to increase your household's participation in Michigan outdoor recreation?

14. Please rate your support regarding the following outdoor recreation initiatives from the 2003-2007 State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan considering your interests and those of your household about outdoor recreation in Michigan. Please check your level of support or opposition to each using the table below.

Outdoor Recreation Initiatives	Strongly Support	Moderately Support	Neutral	Moderately Oppose	Strongly Oppose
Conserve, protect and restore Michigan natural resources in public outdoor recreation venues.					
Expand and develop the system of land and water based trails in Michigan					
Provide appropriate access to enable all citizens to enjoy Michigan outdoor recreation, including those who are disabled.					
Improve community based outdoor recreation in Michigan.					
Improve the Michigan state forest recreation system.					
Improve the Michigan state park system					
Improve cooperation among local, state and federal government and the private sector in the provision of outdoor recreation and sharing of comparable information.					

15. What other broad initiative/direction would you propose to improve Michigan outdoor recreation over the next 5 years?

For statistical purposes, I need to ask you a few final questions about yourself. Please remember that all information is confidential.

16. What is your zip code? _____ code
17. In which county do you live? _____ county
18. How long have YOU lived in your current community, town or city? _____ years
19. What is your age? _____ years
20. What is your gender? ☐ Male ☐ Female
21. Are you Hispanic, Latino or of Spanish origin? ☐ Yes ☐ No
22. Please check all that apply concerning what race or races you consider yourself to be.
- ☐ White ☐ Black/African American
- ☐ Asian ☐ American Indian or Alaska Native
- ☐ None of the above
23. Please check the highest degree or level of school you have completed.
- ☐ Less than high school graduate ☐ High school graduate/GED
- ☐ Some college, not yet graduated ☐ Associate's college degree
- ☐ Bachelor's college degree ☐ Master's, PhD or Professional Degree
(MD, DDS, JD, DVM)
24. Check all that apply concerning your current work status?
- ☐ Student ☐ Part-time employed
- ☐ Retired ☐ Full-time employed
- ☐ Homemaker ☐ Unemployed
25. Including you, how many people live in your household? _____ # people
- 25a. Of your household, how many are under 18? _____ # people
- 25b. Of your household, are any disabled in a way that significantly impacts their ability to work or recreate? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Please add any comments below regarding your opinions or those of your household about Michigan's outdoor recreation future. Thanks!

Registered Voter Cover Letter (on MSU stationary)

July 1, 2007

Dear Michigan Resident:

Every five years Michigan updates its state comprehensive outdoor recreation plan. The plan provides direction for the acquisition and development of outdoor recreation opportunities and also makes Michigan eligible to apply for federal Land and Water Conservation Fund grants, part of which have typically helped fund local units of government such as counties, cities and townships providing parks.

As part of updating the 2003-07 plan, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and Michigan State University (MSU) are cooperating in a mail survey of Michigan registered voters. Its purpose is to understand outdoor recreation in Michigan, including the use of public recreation lands/facilities and the directions the Michiganians want the state go regarding future recreation land acquisitions, facility development and management.

You are one of 2,000 registered voters randomly selected across Michigan to provide a valuable perspective on these issues. Your opinions are important and help accurately represent the collective views of Michigan residents. Please take the 10-15 minutes needed to complete the survey and then mail it to me in the postage paid envelope.

Your participation is voluntary and you indicate your agreement to participate in this study by completing the questionnaire and mailing it back. Your responses will be confidential and your name will not be connected with the results of this research. Your privacy will be protected to the maximum extent allowable by law. If you choose not to participate, to withdraw or not answer any particular question, you will not suffer any penalty.

If you have any questions or concerns about this survey, please contact me at (517) 432-0272 or my assistant Kristen Steger at (517) 432-0297 or me by e-mail at nelsonc@carrs.msu.edu. In case you have questions or concerns about your rights as a research participant, please feel free to contact Peter Vasilenko, Ph.D., Michigan State University's Director of Human Resource Protections. His contact information is: phone (517) 355-2180; fax: (517) 432-4503; email: irb@msu.edu; regular mail: 202 Olds Hall, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI 48824-1047.

Thanks for your help.

Sincerely,

Chuck Nelson, Associate Professor
Enclosures

Additional Comments Verbatim from Registered Voter Survey Respondents regarding Michigan's Outdoor Recreation Future

- As gas prices increase, it's good to know there are plenty of places to enjoy the outdoors in Michigan, many of which are only a day's drive away. It should be an important goal to help our states economy and also to help residents of all ages to enjoy the outdoors by keeping vacation dollars in Michigan.
- At a minimum, we need to develop a stable funding source to protect and maintain the current assets that we have. We need to minimize expanding the system until we can take care of what we already built.
- Baiting should be a personal choice with limits set on how much; quality deer management should also be a personal choice.
- Budget more dollars toward advertisement of tourism to neighboring states; protect state lakes and waterways; keep bicycle trail development moving forward.
- Camp hosts need to offer more to all campers and kids.
- Cross bow hunting for seniors.
- Currently excellent. Increases in fees are discouraging. Cheap catch and release license. Multi-car discount for parking sticker. Free fishing for spouse.
- DNR enforcement is very rude and thinks they are above the law. Something needs to be done.
- Do not let hunters kill morning doves. They are songbirds, not food.
- Education and conservation are very important since finances will always be a problem.
- Enforce no alcohol rule, have law enforcement connect with people on peers, enforce the quiet time (10PM) rule, have DNR not issue tickets if vehicle inches over the line.
- Fine-make sure Great Lakes are preserved.
- Fix the budget.
- Great study.
- Guarantee full funding of land and water fund.
- Have areas around water that are accessible with a wheelchair at water level, not above water.
- Have been pleased with the quality of the State Park system.
- Have heard that the new heritage trail proposed for Marquette County is being funded by grants and snowmobile fees. Yet it's to be use by hikers and bikers in summer.
- Household fees to those who don't use the outdoors, they still do. Recognition of those who put a lot of money into licenses.
- I believe people like me are going to have to stop fishing, hunting and camping as my children become of age for these outdoor outings I will not be able to pay for it. I also see you creating only for the rich to enjoy. Plus I dislike the closing of my favorite places, places I have enjoyed for over 25 years of my life.
- I consider the lakes and rivers to be Michigan's most important resources. We must find ways to protect this resource and allow Michigan citizens to use and enjoy them.
- I do not appreciate that the state sells or gives out information from my driver's license. The name of XXX only appears there.
- I feel that money is wasted on outdoor participation on things that common, moderate income people have no real interest.
- I highly value our Michigan parks and recreation. I do not mind putting money towards it.
- I hope we can protect our lakes from pollution and diversion.
- I support preserving and protection of Michigan forests and wildlife but not at the expense of negatively impacting the future of our snowmobile trail system.
- I think fees in State Park facilities that do not offer any type of modern plumbing or facilities should never be over \$5, this is ridiculous.
- I think if special interests have money our state government will sell out our public interest.
- I think Michigan needs to concentrate on outdoor recreation since most factory jobs are gone. More parks and public recreational activities may help the economy and Michigan's image.

- I think the park reservation system is very poor and should be abolished.
- I wish I could still enjoy Michigan outdoors, but at my age and handicap I am unable to be much help in your survey.
- I would like to be a part of any program that will enable our community to become a cleaner, better and safer place to live and enjoy.
- I would like to see more outdoor roller and ice skating rinks for my kids to play at.
- I would really like to see lake St. Clair cleaned up and see an end to dumping of waste into our waters from our Canadian neighbors.
- If fees for hunting/fishing and state/national parks were lowered more people would take advantage of opportunities to enjoy our beautiful state.
- If you're looking for a census report this is the wrong venue. If you're looking for making signage for none English speaking and reading purposes I would support it. Live in the USA, read, write and speak English. I question the randomness of 2000 with a counter of XXX on my street.
- Info on where to access the lands/water of Michigan would increase use and funding.
- Invasive species on our land and in our water are an enormous threat. Also, I don't have a problem with user fees but they are costly. When the budget is tight for the state the first job they cut are the service workers. Cut administration. Keep the people that are doing the work.
- It's important that we improve our land and water rights. Too many condos are taking our land.
- Keep our waters clean keep all parks open keep fishing/hunting licenses at a reasonable cost, keep gas prices down.
- Keep up the good work!
- Keep up the great parks and lakes. I enjoyed many of them for years with my family.
- Lighting always helps especially on the days where there is not much light after 6PM.
- Look forward to using more of our great recreation areas in the future!
- Lower taxes for beach front property owners if you're forcing them to welcome beach walkers on their property.
- Make more parks handicap accessible.
- Marketing in other states.
- Michigan has a lot of outdoor recreation opportunities on the Lake Michigan shoreline and is a great place to spend time but you almost feel like its all come to an end at the end of summer and of course with the harsh winters we understand why.
- Michigan has beautiful outdoor recreation. More use of U.P. resources would help the U.P. economy.
- Michigan is a beautiful outdoor recreation state. The hunting and fishing is great in Michigan. We have a lot to offer for recreation for both winter and summer.
- Michigan is an incredible place to live! We love going up north and exploring. We need to take better care of our water and keep the trees. We need another mall!
- Michigan is beautiful!
- Michigan needs to stop Asian carp from invading lakes, stop accepting out of country garbage from filling landfills and stop pollution in Michigan lakes.
- Michigan outdoor resources are precious. We need to do everything possible to maintain control of the great lakes.
- Michigan's future is excellent, many types of outdoor activities to please everyone including out of state visitors.
- Michigan's lively hood is largely tourism-we need to do something about gas prices to get people to travel again!
- More advertising.
- More control on snowmobiles, too much drinking and driving plus inexperienced drivers. We must keep all our water safe from pollution. No more oil rigs in our forests.
- More funding for protection and maintenance of resources and facilities.

- More people aware of the game that Michigan has to offer.
- Need volunteer avenues to help manage facilities.
- Okay
- Our state has great outdoor recreation facilities that all people can enjoy.
- Outdoor recreation is extremely important and very worth its cost to the state. Increase opportunities!
- Parks have proper equipment for children to play on and keep them more clean.
- Paved areas for our son (wheelchair bound) to access boat ramps in parks and bike trails are the most important to use for our family.
- Please consider more activities where disabled can enjoy.
- Please keep up the parks, lakes, forests and campgrounds. Don't allow urban sprawl to use up virgin areas.
- Preserve our lakes, don't sell our water, it is our greatest natural resource.
- Protecting the environment is important but so is enjoying it. It has been very difficult to find places in southeast Michigan to use off-road vehicles.
- State has put enough money back into wildlife. Improve the fisheries!
- State should not sell off any land.
- Strong believer in support for local school and community, all of us agree we need crime intervention in order to be safe.
- Strongly concerned about maintaining the natural beauty and not losing land to development. Better management of what already exists.
- Tell the governor to reduce the fat, get the lazy people off their duffs and cut out full-time welfare cheaters of robbing appropriated moneys that could be better used for better activities.
- The land and water should be protected.
- The quality and quantity of the waters of the Great Lakes and invasive species must be addressed. Why spend time and money in other directions and allow our most important problems to increase and perhaps deteriorate further!
- The restroom facilities at Yankee Springs recreation area are excelling. All the State Parks should be upgraded to this level.
- The State Parks need to be improved and upgraded to continue to bring people to visit and spend their money.
- There has been improvement.
- There is a lot of improving to be done in the Macomb area.
- There is so much history in the state its a shame the state of Michigan keeps it a secret.
- Things are not looking good with the state budget cuts and unemployment rising in some areas, it is going to be difficult to maintain high quality until things turn around in Lansing.
- This is not a survey-it is a validation of preconceived, predetermined beliefs and proposed behaviors. This is an example of "you can prove anything with properly worded questions".
- To be honest I hope our state budget isn't increased in this concern. With the state economy as it is the last thing money should go is in recreation. What good is it when no one has the money to go out? Create jobs, recreation will result in time.
- Trash and garbage removal could be more timely.
- Trash cans in State Parks.
- We don't stay in Michigan for the economy! We stay because of its natural beauty, don't sell it off!
- We enjoying walking at local city parks and walking trails. We fly to Mackinac Island but are upset about the fee to park and plus the overnight fees. We ride our bikes at the island; the county park is great for picnics. We travel quite a bit and love the national parks.
- We go to the UP every year and do most of our recreation and sightseeing there.
- We have to take guns with us on walks because of cougar sightings. We don't think it was necessary to introduce them.

- We just need to keep the cost of hunting/fishing licenses down so people can enjoy it, other wise if we raise the prices we're going to loose more money because people cannot afford it due to gas prices. Short on money, cheaper in other states.
- We love the Michigan State Parks, but the fees and pricing are becoming prohibitive to using them.
- We love to camp in State Parks. Increase in cost would greatly limit our participation in State Park camping and force us to resort to private parks.
- We need easier transportation to the outdoor areas or closer to the cities, access for younger or older citizens.
- We need more legislation that will help us clean and protect all of our recreation and wildlife refuges.
- We should focus on healthcare and education.
- We want to see it as the come back state, with so many leaving.
- Wetland restoration not destruction is very important to us. We are also very concerned about the invasion of foreign aquatic pests.
- What does Mexican have to do with outdoor recreation, or white, or black, male or female. Don't be insulting. All people in Michigan have the same opportunities.
- With prices going up for everything some of poor people won't be able to afford even fishing or hunting. We do enjoy the outdoors and would love to be able to afford to fish and hunt.
- With proper management and continuing to improve state recreation areas, keeping all facilities open instead of closing rustic areas with minimal savings to the state. Also, keep fees for recreation purposes instead of using monies for other purposes.
- With the economy as it is currently, it is important to maintain and protect what we currently have and improve and expand once our economy improves.
- Worried about water level drop of Great Lakes especially near Tawas.

